



Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 17

JANUARY 1969

NUMBER 3

Official Call

Announcement is hereby made of the Third Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ to be held in Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia, beginning at 10:00 a. m. Saturday, April 26, 1969, and concluding with the 11:00 a. m. service of worship Sunday, April 27, 1969.

For the Executive Committee of the Southeast Conference:

Olin E. Sheppard, Moderator

Dora C. Brackin, Secretary

Georgia Churchmen Make Statement On Church-State Relations

The church ought to study issues and make statements about them which will give guidance to thoughtful people. The beginnings of dialogue on the significant issues of our times need not come from the government.

The following statement on church-state relations comes from a group of intelligent, involved, and concerned churchmen of many religious faiths. Comments concerning it and signatures supporting it are encouraged. Send to Georgia Council of Churches, 159 Forrest Avenue, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

I.

BECAUSE we believe in one God, the Creator and Sustainer of all men, and

BECAUSE we believe in the dignity and value of every human being, and

BECAUSE we believe that genuine religious belief is a voluntary act of the will and not a product of human coercion,

WE DECLARE our commitment to

(Continued on Page 3)

Crisis In The SE Conference

During the past several years, the Southeast Conference has been operating "in the red" each year! To offset this, the Division of Christian Education of the Board for Homeland Ministries has been supplying \$4,000 annually to the Conference. The Conference sold the house in which the Lightbourne family lived and this helped pay bills. Several friends made significant gifts to the Conference during these years.

At the end of 1968, a review of the financial crisis of the Conference was made. The Division of Christian Education felt it could not continue the \$4,000 subsidy. Without the above resources, the Conference faces a \$20,000 deficit in 1969!

The Division of Church Extension of the Board for Homeland Ministries has made a special gift of \$5,000 to offset this indebtedness. We still need \$15,000. We hope friends of the Conference will again help, but we must await their decision on the matter.

O. C. W. M. goals have been sent out to the churches. If every church paid every cent of its OCWM goal, we would have \$68,000, and not the \$48,000 received from the churches in 1968. In other words, this would eliminate the deficit expected!

If the churches fail to do their utmost, then 1970 will be the year of cutbacks for the Conference, from staff to church aid, from expenses for meetings to expenses for the office, from a world mission to a narrow selfish mission. We have a crisis in the Southeast Conference that only the churches and interested individuals can meet.

We are grateful for the help of national boards, but we as a conference and as local churches must arise to the need also.

— W. J. Andes
Conference Minister



Missionary To Speak In SE Conference

The Reverend Miss Leila Anderson will be speaking in several churches of the Southeast Conference during January. Her tentative schedule is as follows:

Sunday, Jan. 19, 11 A. M. — New Hope Church, Clio, Ala.

Sunday, Jan. 19, Evening Service at Blackwood Church, Headland, Ala.

Monday, Jan. 20, Baker, Fla., Good Hope, Pyron's Chapel, and New Effort

Tuesday, Jan. 21 — First Church, Andalusia, Ala. (also Brantley churches)

Wednesday, Jan. 22 — Antioch, Andalusia

Thurs. and Fri., Jan. 23 - 24 — Plea-

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W. A. Hodnett Ordained

After serving for several years as a licensed minister of the East Alabama Association, William A. Hodnett was ordained to the Christian ministry Sunday, January 12, 1969, at the church where he is serving as pastor, the Todd Congregational Christian Church, Shawmut, Alabama.

Sharing in the service were fellow ministers, A. R. Van Cleave, Allen Hollis, W. J. Andes, W. Walter Hall, Ralph Worley, J. H. Dollar, Olin E. Sheppard, and Joe A. French.

Mr. Hodnett had served as pastor of Bethel Church in West Point, Ga., before going to Todd Church.

MINISTER DIES

Rev. Nathaniel Alvah Long, minister of the Southeast Conference, died December 25, 1968, following a long illness.

Mr. Long is survived by his wife, who lives at Route 1, Midland City, Ala. 36350, a daughter and seven sons.

Funeral services were held at Free Will Baptist Church, with Rev. Ralph Worley assisting.

Mr. Long served many years on the Board of Directors of Southeast Convention, and served churches in the Conference, among them — Blackwood, Dorcas, Phenix City, Thorsby, and New Hope, Clio. He was one of the founders and promoters of Sealacamp.

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How Will You Spend Summer '69?

Although some cries that the church is not relevant may be justified, others come from those who are not aware of the varieties of ministry in which the church is engaged. Furthermore, many do not realize the opportunities open for young people to minister through church channels.

Through the Division of Christian Education's Department of Specialized Ministries, the United Church of Christ will offer in 1969 many summer service opportunities for high school and college youth.

High school youth, for example, may work at Plymouth House, Louisville, Kentucky, for six weeks, offering day camp leadership for inner city children and being involved in efforts to secure adequate housing rehabilitation for the community.

Several projects are open to college age youth in the following locations: Biloxi, Mississippi; Philadelphia, Pa.; Cleveland, Ohio; Boston, Mass.; Honolulu, Hawaii; Mandaree, North Dakota; Minneapolis - St. Paul, Minn.; Neillsville, Wisconsin; Pleasant Hill, Tenn. — to name a few.

Overseas workcamps are also a possibility for college youth: at LeChambon-Sur-Lignon, France (knowledge of French necessary); Birmingham, England; Gelnhausen, Germany (knowledge of German necessary); and Villar Pellice, Italy.

Why not consider investing the summer of 1969 in one of these efforts? For full information, including application blanks for specific projects, write to Specialized Ministries, United Church of Christ, R. D. 2, Pottstown, Pa. 10464.

Fenner Moves To Washington

The Reverend Melvin R. Finner, formerly Southeast Conference minister, has accepted a call to the Community Congregational Church in Harrington, Washington. He assumed his duties January 1, 1969.

Atlanta Pastor Speaks At Yale

Dr. Homer C. McEwen, pastor of the First Congregational Church, Atlanta, delivered a series of lectures at Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut, December 9-13.

The lectures were on the theme "The Church and the Black Experience."

East Alabama Ministers Have Christmas Program

The ministers of the East Alabama Association met at the Langdale Church for their Christmas program.

A wonderful supper was served to the ministers by the ladies of the Langdale Church.

It was a joy for the ministers to have their wives share in this program, as Christmas was the center of attention. The outstanding part of the program, however, was the music presented by Mrs. Allen Hollis and Mrs. Stan Ray. Mrs. Hollis was the soloist, with Mrs. Ray at the piano. A variety of Christmas music was presented and enjoyed by all.

Other guests at the meeting included Mrs. Karlton Johnson, W. J. Andes, and Miss Emilie Pitcock.

Macon Church Celebrates 100th Anniversary

The First Congregational Church of Macon, Georgia, celebrated its 100th anniversary on December 22, 1968. Reverend Edward Brown, guest minister, and Mr. Harold H. Thomas shared in the service. The Macon church has operated on the same site since 1916.

Minister's Father Dies

Funeral for Mr. John W. Smoot was held January 5, 1969 at 3:00 p. m. at Jones Chapel, Woodbury, Ga. Mr. Smoot was the father of Rev. Lowell Smoot, presently pastor of First Church, Sanford, North Carolina, and formerly minister in Southeast Conference. Mr. Smoot died on January 3, 1969.

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Georgia Churchmen . . .

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the recognition and protection of the right of the individual to enjoy freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

II.

BECAUSE we live in a pluralistic society in which religious beliefs are of many kinds and take various forms, and

BECAUSE we respect the right of each individual to hold whatever religious beliefs he chooses, and

BECAUSE we believe that one maximizes his own freedom by a scrupulous regard for the freedoms of others,

WE DECLARE our opposition to the use of the power or influence of government to promote any religious beliefs, even those held in common by most citizens.

III.

WE THEREFORE DECLARE our disapproval of any governmental action of which the primary purpose or result is to promote belief or disbelief in particular religious principles.

IV.

BECAUSE our common religious beliefs lead us to guard against causing hurt to others, and

BECAUSE we believe that coercion of any kind with respect to religious beliefs violates the personal integrity and human dignity of the persons who are subjected to it, and

BECAUSE we believe that government support of religion is inevitably a form of such coercion and is, therefore, ineffective and detrimental, and

BECAUSE we believe that ultimate values are not the appropriate concern of government but should arise from the people themselves,

WE DECLARE that the maintenance and furtherance of religion are the responsibilities of the church, synagogue, and home, and not of the public school or of any other institution of government.

WE FURTHER DECLARE our disapproval of all laws designed to inculcate religious beliefs, and AFFIRM our commitment to the principle of government neutrality in matters of religious belief.

V.

The foregoing principles lead us to

Serving Denominational Boards And Agencies

REV. DAVID L. BEEBE (Comm. on Wor., Class of 1971) Berry College, Mt. Berry, Ga. 30149

REV. EDWARD A. DRISCOLL (Comm. on Unity & Ecum, Class of 1973), 697 Park Lane, Decatur, Ga. 30033

MR. W. PRESSLEY INGRAM (CLLW, Class of 1969), 639 Rumson Rd., Birmingham, Ala. 35209

MR. ROLAND A. KAMPMEIER (B W M, Class of 1971), 1742 Crestwood Drive, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37405

MRS. HOMER C. McEWEN (B W M, Class of 1971), 40 West Lake Ave., S. W., Atlanta, Ga. 30314

DR. HOMER C. McEWEN (B H M, Class of 1971), 40 West Lake Ave., S. W., Atlanta, Ga. 30314

MRS. EVERETT W. MacNAIR (B W M, Class of 1969), Talladega College, Talladega, Ala. 35160

DR. FREDERICK W. MUNSON, (B W M, Class of 1969), Pleasant Hill, Tenn. 38578

REV. ARNOLD SLATER (Executive Council, Class of 1969), 1800 Crestwood Dr., Chattanooga, Tenn. 37405

REV. ANDREW J. YOUNG (CCSA, Class of 1969), 1088 Veltre Circle, S. W., Atlanta, Ga. 30311

raise questions about the following practices in the State of Georgia.

(1) Religious exercises in the public schools, including prayer and Bible reading as a part of such exercises;

(2) The ways in which religious holidays are observed in the public schools, and

(3) Baccalaureate services under public school auspices.

VI.

However, the foregoing principles should not be construed to preclude the following practices:

(1) Provision of opportunities for silent meditation during school hours, and

(2) The objective use of religious material as a part of the regular school curriculum;

(3) Voluntary church- or synagogue-sponsored baccalaureate services held off school premises.

EPIPHANY

According to an old tradition, it was the twelfth night after Christmas, January 6, that the Wise Men reached Bethlehem with their gifts, led there by the star. We call this season—January 6 and the following three weeks—Epiphany, a “showing forth” to the gentile world of the gift of God’s grace in the coming of the Savior. It is God who is manifest in the person of Jesus Christ at Christmas. At Epiphany, the emphasis is on Jesus Christ being made manifest to the whole world.

During Epiphany, we should seek new ways to manifest the glory of God among mankind. How can we manifest the glory of God at our place of business, in our home life, as we play basketball or golf, when we go visiting, and out across the world?

In turmoil and conflict, darkness and dread, how can we as a church manifest the presence of God? When there is hunger in the world, how can we reveal the “bread of life?” How can we as persons manifest the glory of God?

Epiphany is concerned with “light”. We believe that God can and does illuminate the darkness of the world. We may not radiate much light as we move about, but we can reflect the Light of the World, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rev. T. L. Trost, pastor of Syosset Community Church in New York, wrote in the January issue of the *United Church Herald*: “Like Peter, James and John, we also must climb the Mount of Transfiguration and let the light of God as it appears in the face of Jesus Christ engulf us, burn out our sins, make us whole again, and empower us to get on with the tasks God has entrusted to us.

“Only then will we be able to go back to the cities and suburbs, the ghettos and villages, the highways and byways of this world and let the light of Jesus dispel the darkness that covers the face of humanity.”

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

William J. Andes



Rev. H. P. Bozarth Serves As Interim Pastor Again

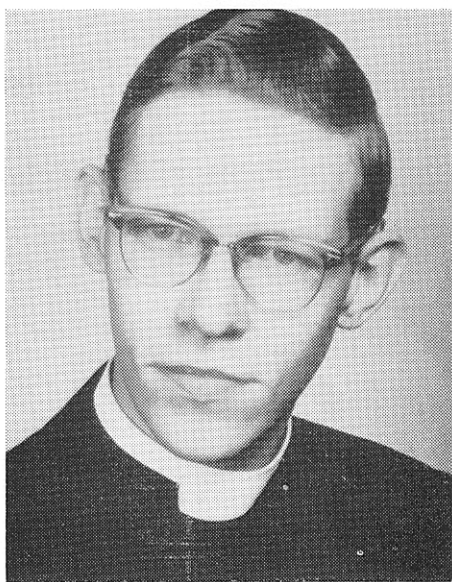
Last year, in the first part of the year, Rev. and Mrs. Howard P. Bozarth left their home in Elon College, N. C., to serve as interim pastor of the Knoxville First Church. They returned to Elon College for the fall semester, where he taught a course on "Religious Problems."

On January 1, 1969, the Bozarts again left their home in Elon College to serve as interim minister at Brookmeade Church in Nashville, Tenn. We are grateful for their willingness to be of service again.

Christmas At Crossville, '68

Music ranging from traditional carols such as "What Child Is This?" to a calypso rendition of "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy", a recitative from "The Messiah", a jazz version of "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" were included in the Christmas program presented at First Congregational Church, Crossville, Tennessee, Sunday, December 22. Local people sang and played strange and exotic instruments: harpsichord, guitar, tonette, autoharp, finger cymbals, organ, and tambourines.

The pastor, William R. Winterbottom, says of the program, "We had a ball. The program was well received."



Bryant Ordained In Phenix City

The Reverend William S. Bryant was ordained to the Christian ministry December 15, 1968, at the Russell Woods Congregational Christian Church in Phenix City, Ala. Mr. Bryant has been serving the Russell Woods Church for several months now.

The Reverend Allen Hollis Jr., Langdale, Alabama, presided and preached the sermon. Hollis is the vice-moderator of the East Alabama Association. Dr. Jesse H. Dollar, area minister of the East Alabama Association, shared in the service. The Reverends John Rhodes, Edward Smallwood, Olin Shepard, W. J. Andes and A. R. Van Cleave also participated.

The Reverend Mr. Bryant served a two-year tour of duty in the U. S. Navy. He has been pastor of several churches in the Nazarene denomination and was Scout executive in North Carolina. At present, he is enrolled in the Master's degree program at University of Georgia, studying for Master of Counseling.

Recent Additions To A-V Library

"Women in the Church", with its companion filmstrip, "What Is Woman?", make up a two-part sound color filmstrip kit entitled **Christian Women in Today's World**, recently acquired by the Southeast Conference for use in our churches.

In the 1968-69 edition of **Program Opportunities for Adults**, the following introduction is made to this kit: "The ability to understand ourselves in relation to the world in which we live is crucial, and many persons in our church groups are perplexed by the changing roles of men and/or women. Women's groups may find the new filmstrip kit, **Christian Women in Today's World**, very helpful in this respect.

"What Is Woman?" (45 frames, 11 minutes) is an analysis of woman's role in history, the unique contribution women can make to the world in which they live, and how women of today can find fulfillment.

"Women in the Church" (48 frames, 12 minutes) deals with the unique status which Jesus gave women, the past, present and future role of women in Protestant churches, what churches can do to minister to women, and how women are finding fulfillment through the church.

These two filmstrips may be borrowed for return postage from the Southeast Conference office. Please order well in advance of showing, giving alternate dates for its use.

Missionary To Speak . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

sant Grove and Antioch Churches, E. Ala.

Saturday — Travel to Hartselle, Ala.

Sunday, Jan. 26 - Wed., Jan 29 — N. Ala.

Miss Anderson has visited the Conference before. She has concluded a three-year ministry among the churches in the Philippines, followed by a mission tour of 24 countries. She will be interpreting the world mission program as she has seen it.

While in the states and visiting among the churches, she will be traveling in a Volkswagen campmobile which she purchased in Germany.

Flick Is Called To Knoxville Church

The Reverend Donald P. Flick, pastor of Church of the Master in Hickory, N. C., has been called to be the pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Knoxville, Tenn., beginning January 19, 1969.

A native of Pennsylvania, he is a graduate of Grove City College, Grove City, Pa. Also, he graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary with a B. D. degree, and attended a school of pastoral care in North Carolina. He visited mission stations in Ghana, Africa, under the direction of Church World Service, and with his wife toured many countries of Europe.

The Reverend Mr. Flick was the organizing minister for Church of the Master in Hickory and has served the congregation for five years. Active in the community life of Hickory, he served on the Chaplaincy Board of the hospital and the Recreation Council.

Dates To Remember

Feb. 1-5 — United Church Assembly, Milwaukee, Wis.

February 12 — Board of Directors, Southeast Conference

Feb. 14-15 — Interim Steering Committee of Dorchester Center at Dorchester

April 26-27 — Southeast Conference Annual Meeting at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga.

'Bread Is For Laughter'

This new filmstrip, whose title is taken from Ecclesiastes 10, is composed of 68 frames in color and a 33 1/3 rpm record. It is intended for use with junior age boys and girls in order that they may become aware of the world hunger program of the church.

Church World Service activities are discussed in India, Hong Kong, Africa, the Holy Land, and Vietnam. Boys and girls are enabled not only to learn what is going on, but also to participate through letter writing and earning and giving money to church world service work.

"Bread Is for Laughter" is available to our churches for return postage at the SE Conference office.

Extend Your Horizons

Read Your

Church Magazines

SEC Youth Officers Meet At Crossville

Snow and rain did not deter the meeting of the SEC Youth officers at Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, Tenn., the weekend of December 14 and 15—they just cut down the attendance!

Between hiking in the snow, playing Monopoly 'til the wee hours, cooking and dishwashing, we found time to think through meanings of youth ministry and where we should be going in the Southeast Conference.

Two events have evolved:

1. The Annual Meeting, March 15-16, 1969. We feel that we really need to face youth's involvement, both in the church and in the world. Several concerns included: one, that although young people are allowed to become church members, few have a significant voice in the church's policies. Either they are assigned jobs by adults or they are mere passive spectators.

Another concern: How may youths' concerns for the world be communicated? Only the "far out" youths receive the headlines. Youths are drafted, but in only two states may those under 18 vote.

We heard the record, *Living Parables*, in which Clarence Jordan translates familiar Bible stories into contemporary settings; we read scripture from *Good News for Modern Man*; we read poetry by youth in the *United Church Herald*, and prayers by Malcolm Boyd and others.

We felt that more young people and adults need exposure to contemporary expressions of Christian witness and then help in becoming involved in the church and in the world. Thus, we are working to involve several people in the Annual Meeting leadership.

2. A Consultation-Planning Event to be held at Camp Calvin, near Atlanta, Saturday and Sunday, February 1 and 2. This event is designed to do three things: involve regional youth officers and their adult advisors in thinking through the direction of youth ministry in the Southeast Conference; train

Harvest Festival At Beachton, Evergreen Church



The Evergreen Church, Beachton, Ga., held the Harvest Home Festival for three nights preceding Thanksgiving. For the first night, Men's Night, Rev. Weshrocks was guest speaker. On the second night, Ladies' Night, Rev. Ellis Fann was speaker, and on Youth Night, Rev. Hopkins spoke of his visit

to Jerusalem, using slides.

A total of \$385.00 was raised during the festival, with which the new carpet for the church and paint for the floor were purchased. The church was beautifully decorated with fruits and vegetables.

—Mrs. Narvella Hadley, Secy.

News From Knoxville Church

The First Congregational Church of Knoxville, Tenn., has moved from the downtown site to 827 Red Saile Drive, Knoxville 37919. The church bought a large stone house and converted it to a sanctuary and church school.

The sanctuary will seat a few more than 100 persons and is full each Sunday.

Led by Dr. Eugene Bushong, the members of the church did much of the cleaning up and renovating of the building. A large parking lot has been provided.

Dr. Bushong is the interim pastor.

small group leaders for their task at the Annual Meeting, as well as later on in their areas; and provide opportunity for fellowship for youth and adult leaders.

Time ran out before we had completed our tasks. It may be just as well because we need to hear from many senior highs and their adult advisors. This we hope to receive at the Camp Calvin event, at the Annual Meeting, and through conversations and the mail.

Your Congregation's Response

If your congregation has not yet taken action in support of the "Crisis in the Nation" program, this should be done at its next meeting. The Sixth General Synod recommended that each congregation give an amount equal to from 1 to 5 percent of its annual current local expense budget to help meet the "Crisis in the Nation."

In 1969, the Southeast Conference can retain up to one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the funds received for "Crisis in the Nation" and use them to develop programs in the Southeast Conference. If sufficient funds were available, significant projects in Nashville, Atlanta, Montgomery, and other areas within the Conference could be developed.

Smallwood Resigns From Columbus Church

Rev. Edward L. Smallwood, after a three-year ministry at First United Church, Columbus, Georgia, resigned Sunday, December 15, effective at the end of the calendar year. His future plans are unknown at this particular time.